

Application No. 10/511,965  
Amendment dated July 23, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2007

Docket No.: 02635/0202033-US0

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1, 2 and 5.

Attachment:      Replacement sheets

**REMARKS**

The Specification has been amended to add the section headings.

Corrected Figs 1 and 2 are submitted that are labeled PRIOR ART. A corrected Fig. 5 is submitted which shows the protective cover plate as element 14. The Specification has been amended to describe element 14, support for which is in claim 9. Two pages of photos (Exhibit A) are also submitted to show the function of the protective plate.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

The claims have been amended to place them in proper form.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected as anticipated by WO 89/11803, which corresponds to U.S. 5,012,824 ('824).

In the '824 patent there is a stationary support frame 10 on which the transporter mechanism is mounted. There is a carriage 20 in which the rotating cutterhead is mounted. A rectilinear track 23 is mounted to the support frame 10 housing the transporter so that the carriage 20 containing the cutterhead can be moved toward and away from the throat 14 of the transporter from which the tobacco exits. There also is a pneumatic motor 28 that drives a mechanism to move the cutterhead carriage 20 away from the transporter housing 10. Further, there is a mechanism (column 2, lines 24-68) that links the cutter carriage 10 to the transporter mechanism so that the cutter drum can be driven in any position of the cutterhead carriage away from the transporter (column 3, lines 1-5). As can be seen, in '824 the frame for the cutting head is moved relative to a stationary frame of the transporting and compacting systems. Movement is accomplished by a relatively complex mechanism.

In the subject application an arrangement opposite to '824, and which is much simpler, is disclosed and claimed. Here the mechanism of a cutting head (2) rotates in a stationary frame (1) that is fixed to a base. The transporting and compacting mechanism frame (6) is moved toward and away from the cutting head frame on guides (7) which extend outwardly horizontal from the stationary frame.

The arrangement of the invention does not require the complex moving mechanism of '824. Such a moving mechanism is probably required in '824 because the cutting head unit is much heavier than the transporting -compaction unit. The invention requires only relatively simple horizontal guides. These guides allow full access to the cutting head cutting zone, wherein the more complicated cutting head moving arrangement of '824 would have a more restricted access. That is, the arrangement of '824 in which the cutting head housing is moved on guides away from the transporting unit makes access to the mouthpiece (14) and to head (22) difficult, if not impossible, because it remains static from both sides of the fixed housing/frame of the machine (10).

Both '824 and the subject application have the same functional units, i.e., cutting heads, compacting transporters, mouthpieces. But the features, process and utility possibilities available from both constructions is significantly different. The arrangement of the subject application is novel because it makes practically possible construction, process, servicing and maintenance features of the cutting head unit that are not as easily achievable in a device according to '824.

A major advantage of the present invention is that the heaviest, the biggest and the most important part of the cutting machine rests in the stationary frame during its use. This makes possible:

- Precise setting/positioning of the cutting head
  - in relation to the unit transporting the comminuted material (in '824 unmarked with numbers but shown under the head on Fig. 3, 5, 6);
  - in relation to a grinding machine (3) and
  - in relation to dust collector systems that are locally mounted in a factory (therefore not shown in the drawings).
- Use of a larger diameter rotating head and therefore a larger amount of cutting knives, maximum 16, which are placed on the circumference of a cutting drum (see claim 3). Presently known construction, such as '824, has a maximum quantity of cutting knives of 8 to 10.
  - using a larger diameter of a cutting head makes possible practical use of a preferable feature of guillotine (vertical) cutting, i.e. rotating knife edge trajectory can be close to vertical as shown in the subject application.

- use of heavier cutting head results in the considerable increase of the internal moment of the rotating drum, which in turn results in a favorable improvement of stability and quality of the comminuted product.

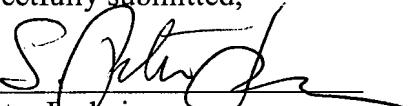
The invention set forth in claim 1 wherein the compacting unit (5) is moved away from the stationary head frame (1) creates a novel feature which is a usable access space (P) that provides full access to the cutting zone. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

The other claims of the application depend directly or ultimately from main claim 1 and recite features which add to the novelty of the invention. Therefore these claims also are patentable and should be allowed.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments